

Northern Ireland political parties 2015 Election Manifestos - Skills

	SDLP	SF	DUP	UUP	ALL
Skills	<p>If we are to attract high quality jobs through inward investment then we need to ensure we have a suitably qualified skills pool to take up these opportunities.</p> <p>The SDLP voted against the massive increase in the tuition fees cap which will restrict access to education for young people. We believe that barriers to accessing education must be removed. For Northern Ireland to compete in a global market and to end the 'brain drain' of young people going abroad to work and study, we must expand higher education.</p> <p>Additional investment is needed to address the attainment gap and educational inequalities and to support a skills and training programme to</p>	<p>Invest in successful industries like science, innovation and engineering and promote new emerging sectors, renewables, creative sector and life-sciences.</p> <p>Planned approach across the island of Ireland to Research and Development.</p>	<p>In broad terms, to secure strong and lasting growth in our economy we believe it best if government invests in the drivers for growth – enterprise, innovation, skills and infrastructure.</p> <p>A budget settlement which will allow real term increases in health and education spending over the next five years.</p> <p>Prioritise spending on health, education and growing the economy.</p> <p>Make Higher Education affordable for all.</p>	<p>We will push hard to develop a skills-based agenda based around the STEM subjects - Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths.</p> <p>Ensure that every school leaver has three essential options: third level education, training for a skill, or an apprenticeship.</p> <p>Continue to invest in research, development and innovation.</p> <p>Demand greater liaison between business, second and third level education, focused on marrying the individual young person and the needs of rebalancing our economy.</p>	<p>Colleges and universities are supported to educate and equip young people with the knowledge and skills they need to contribute to society and compete in a global marketplace.</p> <p>Support regional industries by boosting research, skills, infrastructure and innovation across the entire UK.</p> <p>The Northern Ireland Executive and the UK Government must work together to ensure that Northern Ireland has the skills and ability to attract greater levels of funding from projects such as: UK Research Councils, EU Competitive funding for programmes such as Horizon 2020, Interreg funding and research funding.</p>

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	<p>ensure that we have a 21st century workforce.</p> <p>Build upon the cross-border cooperation between colleges and universities to meet the needs of students and business.</p>				<p>Alliance believes that the future of the economy will be based on securing high-tech, highly innovative and highly-skilled jobs. In the Northern Ireland Executive our Minister has invested heavily in universities and skills.</p> <p>Increase investment in science and research through the UK Research Councils.</p> <p>Support Northern Ireland's universities in drawing down greater levels of science and research funding from both the Research Councils and the European Union.</p> <p>Specifically identify where gaps exist in both funding and infrastructure for science in Northern Ireland.</p>